Harassment of Tribal women in Wayanad, Kerala

4617. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Ministry of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the wide spread harassment of tribal women by policemen who went to the forest of Muthnaga, Wayanad district of Kerala,

(b) if so, the action taken, if any, in this regard; and

(c) whether necessary steps will be taken to enquire the above atrocities by **a** woman judge?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) According to the reports received from the Government of Kerala no specific case of harassment of tribal women by policemen who went to the forest of Muthanga, Wayanad district of Kerala, has been reported. However, during a operation launched by the district authorities for eviction of a large number of activists from the Adivasi Gothra Maha Sabha and Adivasi Kshema Samithy who had illegally encroached into the Amboothi and Thakarappadi areas of the Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary, Wayanad District, some women were arrested and released later on bail.

The National Commission for-Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes have already taken cognizance of the whole issue of encroachment of land by the tribals within the Wildlife Sanctuary in Wayanad District and submitted a report, wherein the Commission has given several recommendations for consideration by the State Government, including the ordering of a magisterial inquiry into the matter. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also requested the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to take up the matter of a judicial inquiry with the State Government.

Demand for Autonomous District Councils

4618. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the tribals population in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in the country and the names of the States they belong to;

, (c) whether there is any demand for creating more ADCs in the States other than the North-Eastem Region;